

Application No. 10/502,056

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

<sup>1</sup>  
Claim ~~16~~ (Currently Amended): A catalyst composition for the oxychlorination of ethylene, comprising a mixture of metal salts on a support, wherein said metal salts are applied to the support in such ratios that the catalyst composition comprises

- a) from 3 to 12% by weight of copper as copper salt,
- b) from  $\geq 0$  to 3% by weight of an alkaline earth metal as alkaline earth metal salt,
- c) from  $\geq 0$  to 3% by weight of an alkali metal as alkali metal salt,
- d) from 0.001 to 0.1% by weight of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum, and/or from 0.0001 to 0.1% by weight of gold, as corresponding metal salt or tetrachloroauric acid, and wherein all percentages by weight are based on the total weight of the catalyst including support material.

<sup>2</sup>  
Claim ~~17~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,<sup>1</sup> wherein the metal salts are selected from metal halides, metal oxyhalides or metal oxides of the respective metal and tetrachloroauric acid.

<sup>3</sup>  
Claim ~~18~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~17~~,<sup>2</sup> wherein the metal halides are metal chlorides of the respective metal.

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<sup>4</sup>  
Claim ~~19~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
comprising from 0.005 to 0.05% by weight of at least one metal selected from the group  
consisting of ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum.

<sup>5</sup>  
Claim ~~20~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
comprising from 0.001 to 0.05% by weight of gold.

<sup>6</sup>  
Claim ~~21~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
wherein the component d) used, is a ruthenium salt or a gold salt.

<sup>7</sup>  
Claim ~~22~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
wherein the component b) used, is a magnesium salt.

<sup>8</sup>  
Claim ~~23~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
wherein the component c) used, is a potassium salt.

<sup>9</sup>  
Claim ~~24~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
wherein the support used, is aluminum oxide.

<sup>10</sup>  
Claim ~~25~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
wherein the support has a pore volume in the range from 0.15 to 0.75 cm<sup>3</sup>/g.

<sup>11</sup>  
Claim ~~26~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,  
wherein the specific surface area of the support used, is in the range from 20 to 400 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

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<sup>12</sup>  
Claim ~~27~~ (Withdrawn): A fixed-bed catalyst comprising the catalyst composition as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~16~~, in the shape of hollow cylinders or annular pellets whose end faces are rounded both to the outer edge and to the edge of the central holes.

<sup>13</sup>  
Claim ~~28~~ (Withdrawn): A process for preparing 1,2-dichloroethane, comprising oxychlorinating ethylene in the presence of a catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~.

<sup>14</sup>  
Claim ~~29~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim <sup>13</sup>~~28~~, which is a circulation reactor process.

<sup>15</sup>  
Claim ~~30~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim <sup>13</sup>~~28~~, wherein the catalyst is used as a moving bed.

<sup>16</sup>  
Claim ~~31~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim <sup>13</sup>~~28~~, wherein the catalyst is used as a fixed bed.

<sup>17</sup>  
Claim ~~32~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim <sup>16</sup>~~31~~, wherein the catalyst is used as a fixed bed in the form of hollow cylinders or annular pellets whose end faces are rounded both to the outer edge and to the central holes.